

## H.W. Mountz PTA Minutes

Tuesday, August 16, 2016

9:05 a.m. Call to Order

Thank you to Cathleen Gresh for serving on the PTA Board as Vice President and for your service. Welcome Diane Moran! Diane has previously served as the PTA Board Treasurer and will now serve as the PTA Vice President.

### **Recording Secretary's Report**

No report given this month due to June end of year party.

### **Corresponding Secretary's Report**

Mrs. Mizhir reported on the following notes of thanks sent to the PTA:

- From Leah Parentela for the 2015-2016 PTA scholarship.
- From Michele Szary for the teacher appreciation gift.
- From Mrs. Abbot for her classroom book gift.
- From Mrs. Walsifer for the support of the PTA during the 2015-2016 school year.
- From Eileen and Dean Lin for the condolences and gift sent to their family.
- From Mr. Destefano and the 7<sup>th</sup> grade class for their interactive trip to the Liberty Science Center to witness a live open heart surgery and have the opportunity to converse with the medical staff.
  - Personal notes of thanks were sent by the following students: Ellie O'Connor, Kara Geantasio, Adam Vasquez, Erin Hardiman, Owen Judge, Morgan Fahy, Kelly Degnan, Liam Flaherty, Chris Newman, Michelle Beer, Declan Hogan, Chase Broglio, Patrick Jordan, Matthew Wingard, Abigeal Gammond, Sofie Ressa, Christiana Yurkewicz, Gianna Lanfrank, Michael White, Lydia Schengrund, Tim Regan, Scott Seratin, James Klangasky, Ben Ryder, Henry Hunt, Michael O'Rourke, Brendan McHugh and Nathan Hale.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Checking account balance is \$81,392.03 and the Savings account balance is \$4498.11 as of 8/16/16.

### **Dr. Boccuti's Report**

Currently preparing for the opening day of school on September 6

- Virtual Learning Lab slated to be open in September
- Online notifications and parent letters to be sent out this week

Strategic Planning Committee Update

- Received BOE approval to proceed
- The first committee meeting consisted of: a presentation on the state of the district, review of the school mission statement and vision, and the y-model of "Expanding What's Possible".
- The following action will take place:
  - Formulating an action team for the 5 goal areas (goals to be reached within 5 years)

- Prioritizing the district's needs list
- Present the 5 goals to the strategic planning committee
- Present the 5 goals to the BOE for approval
- Launching of the district's strategic plan after December recess.

#### Technology

- The district website was refurbished over the summer with the help of Mr. Soto.
- Dr. Boccuti is hoping to expand the district's channels of communication this school year (ie. Twitter, superintendent's blog, etc.)
- Question raised if the school will continue with the traditional methods of communication as well (ie. schoolwires). Dr. Boccuti responded yes, these will continue.

Dr. Boccuti thanked the PTA for the organization's continued support.

#### **Dr. Boccuti's BOE Liaison Report**

- The district has hired two new teachers: fifth grade teacher, Ms. Jenna Bellafonte and physical education teacher, Mr. Alvarez.
- Two paraprofessionals have joined the district due to the resignations of Mrs. Burke and Mrs. Dale. Mrs. Burke and Mrs. Dale have accepted teaching positions.
- Ms. Parisi, Psychologist for the CST, has requested part-time employment. Mrs. Krug, member of the CST, will move to 4 days/week.
- Dr. Boccuti reported that repairs from the car accident that took place in the front of the school are being delayed due to the county hazmat team. Soil in need of excavation.

#### **Committee Updates**

##### Beach Day

##### **Volunteer needed to run this event!**

- Date: Saturday, 9/10. Rain Date: Saturday, 9/17
- Without a chairperson volunteer, the 2016 Beach Day will be canceled in two weeks.
- Two parents volunteered to assist the chairperson, should one become available.
- A discussion took place regarding the use of local vendors as catering options.

##### Kitchen Tour – October 22, 2016

- Seven homes have been secured; goal of 9.
- 400 tickets have been sold online.
- Mr. Livingood volunteered to be a house captain. Thank you.
- Discussion took place regarding students writing home descriptions and gaining access to homes.
- Design NJ will be photographing the event.

##### Back to School Coffee – First Day of School, September 6 at 8:35am.

- Volunteers needed to donate refreshments

##### Giving Tree – Volunteer needed to run this which takes place in late November/early December.

## **New Business**

### 2016-2017 Preliminary Budget Discussion

- To be held at next PTA meeting, September 20. We will need a minimum of 10 PTA members to vote on the budget.

### Grounds Beautification Initiative

- PTA will partner with SLED for this initiative.
- Discussion took place whether or not BOE will absorb the cost of new soccer goals (4-6k).
- Discussion took place questioning which organization should be responsible for the maintenance of the new initiative – PTA, SLED, or BOE.
- Dr. Boccuti provided an explanation as to how improvements within the district are prioritized.
- Mrs. Moran volunteered her girl scout troop as volunteers for any/all PTA activities (Beach Day, Kitchen Tour, etc.) Thank you.

New Families – Need volunteers to partner with new families (7)

Back To School Night – September 14 for Prek-5, September 15 for 6-8.

- Reminder to bring money for the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bake Sale.

## **Announcements**

- Next PTA Meeting is **Tuesday**, September 20, 8:40am
- PTA meetings will now primarily take place on Tuesdays.
- Discussion items:
  - Class Parent budget for parties funded by PTA
  - Staff Appreciation gift cards

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Submitted by: Emily Snyder, Recording Secretary